

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS STATUS

Claims 1-23 are in the application, but claims 13-17, 22 and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to Claims 6-8 as being of improper form of multiple dependent claims depending on multiple dependent claims. These claims have been amended so that none of them depend on any multiple dependent claims. These claims are patentably distinct over the prior art for at least the reason that they depend on claims that are patentably distinct over the prior art.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102(b)

Claim 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly being separately anticipated by Laughlin, Del Paggio and Cachet. Amended claims 1-5, however, each recite that the workpiece is supported by the supporting means "such that the workpiece can rotate freely about said turning axis in response to the application of an external force ***." This is not the case for either Laughlin, Del Paggio et al. or Cachet, wherein, as noted the Examiner, the support means are for "supporting and rotating a workpiece... ." A support means that permits the workpiece to rotate freely in response to the application of an external force

cannot rotate the workpiece, because to rotate the workpiece it must grip the workpiece, which would interfere with the free rotation of the workpiece. For example, and in contrast, the embodiment of the of the present invention shown in FIGS. 1-10, permits the workpiece to slip rotationally about supporting rod tips 22a and 24a. The other (FIGS. 11 through 27) all permit free rotation. Accordingly, none of these embodiments would be capable of rotating any of the workpieces shown by means of their supporting structures. Even if, for example, rods 22 and 24 were rotatable, the workpiece would just slip as they were rotated, and the effort to use them to rotate the workpiece would largely fail.

Amended claim 5 includes a further restriction that the inductance heater must produce over 20,000 watts of heat. This limitation is supported in paragraph 118 of the present application, in which the use of an over 20,000 watt inductance heater is taught. None of the cited prior art references discloses the use of an inductance heater of this sort.

The disclosed embodiments of the present invention are fundamentally different from those of the cited prior art because the support means do not rotate the workpiece, but rather the external force of magnetism rotates the workpiece. This difference is reflected in amended claims in the language cited in the previous paragraph. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 are novel over each of the three cited references.

Moreover, claims 1-5 are also nonobvious relative to the cited references, which all teach away from the invention by disclosing systems in which the workpiece is rotated by the supporting means. Permitting external forces to rotate the workpiece constitutes a radical departure from previous apparatuses and an important advance in the art.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

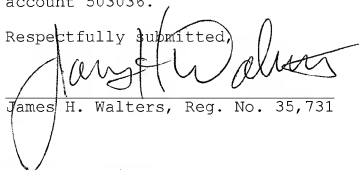
Claims 1-5, 9-12 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being obvious over Del Paggio et al. Applicant has already argued that amended claims 1-5 are nonobvious over Del Paggio et al. With respect to claims 9-12, amended claim 9 recites that the workpiece is supported so as to freely rotate upon the application of an external force and is patentably distinct over Del Paggio et al for the same reasons argued above with respect to claims 1-4. The points of novelty of claims 10-12, however, were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The Examiner has made no reference to the configuration of the induction heating coils recited in claims 10 and 11. Because applicant has not been afforded an opportunity to argue the Examiner's reason for rejection, which was not given, applicant respectfully submits that a final rejection would be premature in the next Office Action, regardless of the merits of the case. The point of novelty of claim 12 has also not been addressed. Likewise, the rejection of claims 18-21 does not take note of the recitation of the positioning of the induction

heating coils recited in claims 18-21. Accordingly, as applicant has not been told why these claims were rejected, he is not in a position to argue for the allowance of these claims and asks the Examiner to provide an explanation and opportunity to argue the point, in the next Office Action. Moreover, claim 18 does not describe an apparatus in which the supporting means (rod) could turn the coil spring. Accordingly, claim 18 is distinguished over Del Paggio et al, wherein the supporting means are configured to rotate the workpiece, rather than protruding through a hollow of the workpiece, which does not permit the rod to rotate the workpiece (coil spring).

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this filing or that the required fees are being submitted herewith. However, if additional fees are required to keep the application pending, please charge deposit account 503036. If fee refund is owed, please refund to deposit account 503036.

Respectfully submitted,


James H. Walters, Reg. No. 35,731

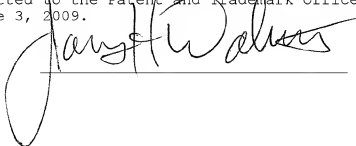
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P.O. Box 82788
Portland, Oregon 97282-0788 US
(503) 224-0115
DOCKET: I-241

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Walters", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.